REPUBLICAN DOCUMENTS.

A Prosidential Canvass of unusual significance is about to open-one of which the result must go far to determin National course—whether the vast unpeopled region coufided by Providence to our keeping, shall be subdue and cultivated by intelligent, happy freemen, or by lashed and blinded slaves. It is most important that the true bearings of this contest be set forth and diffused, not in the heat of the struggle, after every one shall have taken the popular mind is measurably calm and unprejudiced in view of these considerations, the Republican Associafrom time to time to publish, the most important Speeche and E-says which have appeared and shall appear on the side of Free Labor and Human Rights, which, we trust gratuitous circulation among their friends and neigh with an eye to the struggle before us.

The very low price at which they are afforded puts within the reach of every one to aid in their circulation Our list of publications having become too long for uninted with them, and the prices, or which of them wi be best to circulate in their neighborhoods, should make a small remittance to procure specimens, which will forwarded free of postage. Address L. CLEPHANE,

Secretary Republican Association, Washington, D. C. Papers friendly to the Republican Movement wil greatly aid the cause by giving the above one or more in

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Office, No. 501 Seventh street, between D and one square south of City Post Office.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1856.

THE NATIONAL ERA FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

We propose to issue the National Era for the Campaign, from the 4th April, instant, to the 5th December, inclusive, comprising thirty-six numbers of the Era, covering the whole period of the Presidential canvass, election, and re turns, for \$1 a copy, in clubs of five or more.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

We would call the attention of the readers the Era to this monthly publication. It is exclusively Anti-Slavery, containing such articles from the Era as one likes to keep for purpose of reference, and also others specially adapted to circulation among the masses. Its octavo form fits it for being bound, and, at the same time, it is so cheap that a subscriber at little cost can secure additional copies for distribution. As the Presidential campaign is now opening, it is desirable that the work of dis seminating facts and arguments on the great Question which the People are to be called

upon to decide, shall be carried on briskly. The first volume of the Facts closes with the number issued this week, and the first number of the second volume will be issued the first week in May ensuing. The terms are-

Six copies to one address - \$1.00 Fourteen copies to one address - 2.00 Fifty copies to one address -Postage, six cents a year, or three cents half yearly, on each copy, to be paid, in advance, at the office of delivery.

WHO WANTS A CHEAP DOCUMENT!

We hope orders will be sent in immediately

Our readers will recollect that so great was the demand for our old series of Facts for the People, that the surplus edition left of it, after hausted.

We have now to announce that, having on Facts for the People, (just closed,) we have send them, free of postage, to any who may ora nest volume of 192 pages. It contains-" A Decade of the Slave Power"-complete

in ten chapters. Dangers of Slavery Extension-Slaveholders a Privileged Class - Growth of our Negro Aristocracy-being a speech delivered by Gov.

Seward, in Albany, October 12th, 1855. The Politics of Justice, Equality, and Free dom-being a speech of Gov. Seward, delivered at Buffalo, N. Y., October 19th, 1855.

American Politics-a speech delivered by the Hon. George W. Julian. Speech of the Hon, John P. Hale, on the President's Message, relating to Kansas.

Editorial Comments on the same Message. History and Philosophy of the Struggle for the Speakership of the Present House of Representatives, with a classification of votes.

Letter of Francis P. Blair to the Republican Association of Washington. Sectionalism and Republicanism-

torial Review of a Letter from the Hon. D. D. Barnard, of New York. A Synopsis of the Slave Code in the District

of Columbia. Statistics of Stavery in Maryland and Mis

Besides all this, the volume presents a com prehensive view of the Know Nothing movement and its bearings; accounts of Kansas affairs, and of the slave cases that have arisen during the last twelve months, and a thorough discussion of the Republican movement, and the true policy of its supporters.

In no other Publication, of the same size and gost, can be found so full a history of the Anti-Slavery movement, and so thorough a discussion of its great facts, as in this cheap and

THESDAY IN CONGRESS.

In the Senate, sundry petitions were presented; and then the pending Bounty Land Bill was again taken up, and was considered on various amendments proposed to it.

In the House, after referring a few Execu tive Department communications, which were on the Speaker's table, they again took up the Deficiency Bill, and proceeded to vote on agreeing to the Senate's amendments thereto which were not thus disposed of on the day before.

EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR THE ERA. L. A. Chamerovzow, Esq., 27 New Broad

street, London, England, has kindly consented

to act as agent for the National Era in Great Britain and Europe. AN ERROR CORRECTED. PETERBORO', March 23, 1856.

My DEAR DOCTOR: These Garrisonians and these Republicans cannot understand me. For instance, the Standard, that came last evening, says that I would have Congress legislate for the abolition of Slavery; and the Era, that came last evening, says that I would have Gov-

ernor Chase "rescue the fugitives." Now, it is to the Judiciary that I look declare Slavery unconstitutional, and thus to abolish it. And what I wished Governor Chase

If people would or could read me in the ligh of my great principle, that there is no law, and can be no law, for Slavery, they would not misapprehend me, and therefore would not misrepresent me. This principle will yet triumph, and then I shall stand vindicated. In the mean time, I must be content to pass for a fanatic and a simpleton.

Truly yours,

Trenton, April 15.—At our city election, yesterday, Joseph Wood, Democrat, was elected Mayor by 230 majority. The entire Democratic general ticket, with one exception, (School Superintendent,) was chosen by about the same majority. The Council is tied.

In Farty douged with him. But, as the leaders of the French Consulate. The probabilities are that these gentlemen violated some will of the people who support them. Unknown men and indefinite issues will not command, as advantage, some of the most distinguished opponents of Slavery being found in its ranks. It, too, could dodge the issue, not by making like the same majority. The Council is tied.

THE LESSONS OF SIXTEEN YEARS.

Surveying the politics of this country for the last sixteen years, there are a few great facts which we find it necessary to re-present, and press upon the attention of our readers with an importunity that must almost weary them. Still, so important are the lessons they teach. that we cannot permit them to be for a moment

In 1840, two parties struggled for the ascen

dency-the Democratic, in possession of the Federal Power, the Whig, seeking it. The main body of the latter, composed of men holding certain views in relation to the politico-economical functions of Government, did not put these forth as the issues of the canvass, but assailed their adversaries on general grounds, for the purpose of rallying all sections of the opposition. The Administration was corrupt-profligate-wasteful-change was necessary-surely every patriot would agree that it would be a gain to secure at least a more respectable and less corrupt Administra-This being the policy, the composit party selected their candidate, not from the class f men who had signalized themselves by the advocacy of Whig views and measures, for it did not believe the Opposition could be rallied on that basis. It simply sought power, its manavers calculating that, were this once secured, they could contrive to use it for the promotion of whatever views they deemed important. Accordingly, the candidate selected was without antecedents in politics; not identified with anyof the controversies of principle that had divided parties; against whom nothing could be said politically, because he had done nothing politically; for whom much might be said person ally, because once, at a period so far distant as to make keen criticism impossible, he had won a respectable military reputation. The Slave Power was then the governing influence of the ountry, just as it is now; but the two great parties raised no question concerning its pre tensions-they stood substantially on the sar ground in relation to it, both acknowledging its power by nominations acceptable to it.

Such was the character of the struggle i 1840, when a small body of voters appeared Whice and Democrats, boldly arraigning them for overlooking the real Evil of American Politics-Slavery Domination - and assuming its President, the appropriation of its acting that, so long as this Evil was recognised, ac- President by the Slave Power, the abandonquiesced in, and perpetuated by their action. it mattered little, so far as the permanent interests of the country were concerned, which of them triumphed. This body of voters, styled of Texas with Slavery, and the establishme the Liberty Party, selected a candidate, representing the policy of antagonism open and claims, is to be found the Principle that Slavedirect to the Slave Power, with a firmness and clear sightedness almost unexampled in United States, within or against positive law! political warfare, resisted all attempts to draw voted for their own nomination. A few thousands against many hundreds of thousands. they were of course stigmatized as visionary and fanatical; but what did the country gain from the triumph of an Opposition without Principles? A President, who died in a few days-

resisted both Parties, vindicated. This is the first fact. Slaveholders, stood pledged to let it alone. South was willing to forego that measure for therefore, put himself on compromise ground, and declared opposition to the annexation of war, without fraud, without dishonor-discarding, however, all considerations relating to Slavery. "How can you hesitate," urged his advocates upon the Liberty Party, "to support | fruits! him? Is not his position in all respects preferable to that of his opponent? Surely, here is a practical question. How can you excuse yourselves for not uniting with us, and opposing annexation?" What was the answer? Caste—he is hostile to any abatement of its esced in its successive usurpations, till it seems morial was laid upon the table. power—Liberty has nothing more to gain per- on the very eve of establishing itself as forever manently from his election, than from that of his opponent: both your Parties stubbornly refuse to recognise the real Evil of the coun-

of temporary policy—fifteen thousand votes from that newly formed organization, or afraid that the proposition, if adopted, was to operate

the bold, undisguised attempts of the Propa- on the subject are unknown quantities. ganda to plant Slavery in the Territories ac- Gentlemen, beware. Four great facts are quired from Mexico, gave this agitation a before you. Possibly, one more fact may be practical form and power it had never as needed to demonstrate that bold and direct sumed before. Multitudes of voters, who had remedies are the best; that compromise and regarded the Liberty men as visionaries, or evasion can answer no purpose but to bring the country, and acknowledged that it was to its opponents. necessary to deal with it. General Cass, ta- New men are not necessarily dangerous men, the demand of the Slave Power that the Terri- nation would need no platform or declaration tories be opened to Slavery, and the demand of of principle to sustain them. But, new men United States, Mr. Rothe, and also arrested the the North, the free white population of the its opposers, that they be shut against it; and must be sustained by such declarations as shall Chancellor of the French Consulate. The probhis Party dodged with him. But, as the lead- bind them, beyond a peradventure, to do the abilities are that these gentlemen violated some

a new one, but by ignoring all issues, trusting to oppose all projects for converting it into a mantic interest of victories achieved in the field against apparent impossibilities.

Again, then, the two great Parties stood arcountry not being the issue between them, but eing submitted to and exempted from arraignnent—the nominations of both being acceptable to the Slave Power, and advocated by its

The Liberty men stood their ground, still

uming that it mattered little to the vital and Slave Power shall remain unbroken? Let the during interests of the country, what Party ecceeded, so long as the Slave Power should ontinue, without question, to govern both, and determine the whole action of the one that night happen to secure the Presidential prize. But, this time, there were large accessions to its Convention, of Democrats, alienated by the latter, partly by Anti-Slavery feeling, but, for eral Cass. The representatives of all classes Policy, conceded to the Barnburners the nomlarged Party was known as the Free Soil, or Principle, is worse than a defeat. Free Democratic Party. Mark-whatever may have been the motive of a large majority of the Slave Power. Doubtless, some of them had whatsoever the inducements to abandon it. The Whig Party, assumed to be more favorable to succeeded-and what followed? The death of ment under his lead of the whole policy of Sla-

very Restriction, the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Act, more criminal than the annexation of a Compromise in which, the Slave Power ry may of right exist in any Territory of the How painfully are the availability experiginning, the middle, and the end! And how

ty demonstrated in the results!

This is the third great fact. In 1852, the leaders of the old Parties, blir still to the Truth, said the country had acquiand an acting President, who utterly baffled esced, and was tranquil-let there be no more the cherished policy of the Northern Whigs, agitation. And so, both Parties, through their but, belonging to the slaveholding caste, initia- representatives at Baltimore, in Convention ted the scheme for the annexation of Texas assembled, swore to maintain the Compromise ing rule, and it was easy; for, like the People, had been," say the authors of this work, "as of 1850, to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act, and State the champion of the Nullifiers, who, in | put down the agitation of the Question of Slahis negotiations on the subject, openly rested very. Both virtually swore allegiance to the elected by the People against the Oligarchy! necticut; the age of Dryden and Pope had unhand about 3,000 copies of the first volume of the policy of annexation on the necessities of Slave Power. The Democracy called back its Representing a Revolution, peaceful, but radithe Slave Power. Thus was a movement, car- Barnburners, Whigery, its Conscience Whigs: cal, what a clear view of its nature, its scope, its of Anne Bradstreet and Michael Wigglesworth; had them stitched and bound in paper, and will ried on without Principle, headed by a man and men wondered how the old Liberty men. without antecedents, advocated merely on the now known as Free-Soilers or Independent der them, for 25 cents a copy. The work forms ground that it was necessary to place power Democrats, could be so infatuated as to keep into new hands, converted to the uses of Sla- up their one-eyed organization. But, the vetvery Propagandism. And thus was the wis- erans held their Convention, reasserted their dom of the few thousands of voters who had old Policy, nominated candidates representing on Slavery, what deep insight into human na- ed the generous admiration of Chatham." The it, and, turning neither to the right hand nor the left, indifferent whether their action should In 1844, the question of the annexation of defeat the Whig Party or the Democratic, or, to reorganize, in all its departments and func-Texas was fairly before the People. The two indeed, whether it should decisively affect the Parties again took the field. This time, the struggle between them or not, they cast one Whig Party proper determined to test the hundred and fifty-six thousand votes. Whigs a century for the aggrandizement of the Slave pamphlets and newspapers, from which many force of its peculiar principles, by frankly pro- had said—"Come with us—General Scott is Interest! Who, we again ask, is sufficient for of the gems of its literature, included in this claiming them, and setting up, as their candi- safer for the country:" Democrats had appealdate, the man most distinguished for their ed to them-"General Pierce is pledged against formed any true conception of its overwhelmadvocacy. But, blindness still afflicted the Slavery agitation, of course will frown down all ing importance, and knows himself, would not nation; and a remark is cited of Dr. Benjamin leaders. Neither Party confessed the real attempts at Propagandism—come with us." We shrink from its undertaking? Strange, that Rush, written at the close of this period, in evil of the country—the domination of the turned a deaf ear, told you that the Slave Pow- there should be so many aspirants for a posi- 1799, in which he says: Slave Power-both, composed of Northern er ruled you both, and would rule you to your tion demanding extraordinary energy, experiand Southern Sections, Slaveholders and Non- ruin, and we went our way. Well-the Dem- ence, skill, and wisdom, and beset by difficulties ocratic Party succeeded-the acquiescence, the But, the Whig Party North was opposed to submissionist Policy triumphed-and what fol- tial office since the day when it was filled by the annexation of Texas-and the Whig Party lowed? Aye-what followed? Ruin! Did we George Washington! not tell you so? You sowed the wind, and you the present, for the sake of a victory. Mr. Clay, have reaped the whirlwind: Democracy demoralized, the Whig Party disorganized, the Missouri Compromise trampled under foot, Texas, unless it could be accomplished without | Border Ruffianism rampant, civil war in Kansas, and your President, with army and navy, seek-

> pioneers of Freedom, as rebels! Behold the This is the fourth great fact.

Suppose our Policy had been adopted by the

tion exists no longer. The Democratic party that the Colonel has demanded from the Senatry—the success of either will be a positive in almost every free State is prostrate. The tor a satisfactory explanation, or honorable different sections of the country. Its authors gain to it; as to this temporary question of people, cut adrift from all parties, demand that satisfaction. We suppose some correspond- concede the superiority in the number of authe rule of the Slave Power be broken. But, ence has taken place, but as Colonel Lane is thors to that portion north of Mason and by that American bond of Union which makes mediate annexation, not ultimate—to annexa- in the chaos, an organization has sprung up, as reported to be a member of the Methodist Dixon's line, and explain the fact by the tion by fraud or violence, not by peaceful intent upon dodging the real issue of the counnegotiation-if elected, the project will only be try as either Whigery or Democracy ever was, Mr. Douglas a challenge. postponed, to be accomplished in a manner less and thus blocks the way of union upon the policy A point made during the debate was, that a calculated to awaken indignation and open the of open, direct antagonism to the Slave Power. proposition to exclude free colored people from in point of antiquity over Massachusetts and eyes of the Northern People to the usurpations We stand where we stood in 1840, and insist Kansas, submitted separately to the People, upon this, as the only safe and effective remedy. and adopted, had been incorporated in the At one time it seemed as if the masses were Constitution, now supported by the Republican literature, to their Northern sisters? Is it not to be seduced or bewildered by considerations ready for it, but political managers, emerging Senators. Colonel Lane denies this, and states a fact that the best productions in every departeast by them in the State of New York defeat of its power, with a strange blindness to the ed the Whig Party in that State and in the lessons of the past, seem inclined to try again He says: Union : meantime, they had multiplied twelve- the experiments of 1840 and 1848. They would play Hamlet, with the part of Hamlet omitted. They would run the line of their action, aside In 1848, the Availability Experiment of 1840 from the Slave Power. They would place on was repeated. The agitation of Slavery had the retired list the men who have earned curses at last, through the efforts of the Liberty by confronting and defying it. They would Party, contesting, in every free State, the sub- supply their places with men without antecemissive, servile policy of the Whigs and Dem- dents, who have taken no part in the agitation ocrats, come to influence every election; and of the Slavery question, whose creed and policy

worse, opened their eyes to the real evil of strength to Slavery, and weakness and shame

king the ground that to the People of the but the people are distrustful; they have been Territories belongs the right to regulate their too often deceived. They must have guaranown domestic institutions, dodged the issue ties. There are statesmen whose names alone which before had seemed unavoidable between | embody the whole creed of liberty, whose nomi-

double-tongued orators on the stump, to a slave State, act from a wise self-interest; but atch Pro-Slavery and Anti-Slavery voters. Its the same parties send to Congress, as their Philadelphia Convention eschewed all declara- Representatives and Senators, determined protions of Principle, and nominated a man, with Slavery men. Hunker Democrats, who favored out political antecedents, not implicated in any the repeal of the Missouri compromise, such as olitical controversy, but invested with the Colonel Lane, engage in making a free Constitution for Kansas, but what do they understand of the oppressions of the Slave Power; what do they care for them? A man may be in favor ayed against each other—the real evil of the of admitting Kansas as a free State, and yet utterly indisposed to arraign or act against the ted themselves. The name of each individual, Power that seeks to enslave it. The Kansas question is a transient one, momentous as it is. Will its settlement, one way or the other, sup- the subdivision, as in Chambers's work, of

to the country, so long as the tyranny of the

history of the last sixteen years answer. It is possible that the spirit of comproand conservatism may yet determine the character and direction of the Republican movement. This, we have long foreseen. Know Nothingism has demoralized many of the old is by no means a trifling one, and the work beranks; of Whigs, disgusted by the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery voters, and rendered them adepts fore us, especially that portion of it which remination of General Cass; the former being | Slave Power, as it has grown imposing, has at | dicates a thoroughness of research, the difficulactuated chiefly by Anti-Slavery feeling, the tracted multitudes who regard it chiefly as an ties of which no one can duly estimate, except instrument for gaining place, and they cannot the authors themselves. Few men, however, the most part, by personal animosity to Gen- bear to wait long for the fulfilment of their ambitious aspirations. They invest their capital, ographical knowledge, the general fairness of met at Buffalo, and the Liberty men, obtaining | with the hope of immediate returns. And even the full ratification of their Principles and drilled veterans of Liberty, now that they have for the task proposed; and the volumes before come within striking distance of success, in the ination: the result was a vote of nearly heat of the struggle, are in danger of forgetting with which they have performed it, not less three hundred thousand. Thenceforth, the enthat a victory of numbers at the expense of

The sincere purpose of the masses People who have been drawn to the support of Barnburners, the Liberty men were true to the Republican movement, is, to dethrone the such a publication, and the relative space aptheir Policy-Open, Direct Antagonism to the Slave Power, to exclude Slavery from the Ter- portioned to this or that subject under considritories, and to put the Federal Government on their preferences as between the candidates of the side of Liberty. They have sustained the the old Parties, but the adoption of their Poli- movement, because it means all this. Less they cy by the People they held to be of far more will not be satisfied with. If the only object portance than the success of either Whigs be, to admit Kansas as a Free State, there is or Democrats, and such adoption could never no use in organizing a new Party. The old be secured, unless they adhered to that Policy, Whig organization, or the Know Nothing Order, would suffice for that. If this be all, if Parties have been broken up, and the country on the stage, challenging the policy of both Freedom, in the face of the fact that, like its has been convulsed merely to redress a single opponent, it was governed by the Slave Power, wrong, leaving in full power, with all its capacities for mischief, the Despotic Interest that has committed it, then indeed has the mountain labored to bring forth a mouse. The People do not so understand it. They intend to put down the Slave Power, and assert their right to use the Federal Government for the establishment of Liberty, and prevent it from being prostituted to the extension of Slavery. This sublime movement-the reorganization of the Federal Government-is second only in importance to the organization of the Government. Shall the spirit of Conservatism and Compromise betray them into the ranks of the Opposition, and ments of 1840 and 1848, assimilated, in the be- it in the hour of its strength, on the very eve of its triumph? Who is sufficient for its inaumarvellously is the wisdom of the Liberty Par- guration? Have we ever thought of the responsibilities of him, who shall be called upon, as its first Representative, to take the place of the Slave Power which has ruled us for nearly half a century? The Presidents, installed by that Power, have always found a beaten track before them, prescribed formulas, routine work. Submission to its dictates has been the unvary- of America heard in the Old World. "There

How different the position of a President the various sections of the country, what accu- ly, in the colonial writings, fast ceasing to be rate opinions of the Constitution in its bearings firmness, courage, wisdom, would be required such as have never surrounded the Presiden-

KANSAS IN THE SENATE. .

Last week, Mr. Harlan presented in the Senate the memorial of Colonel Lane, elected by the People of Kansas as a Senator under their new Constitution, explaining in detail the interlineations and erasures of the memoing pretexts for butchering your fellow-citizens. rial of the People of Kansas for admission as a State, presented by General Cass a few days | Cooper, Simms, Emerson, opened new provbefore, and withdrawn by him, after a hot discussion, on account of the questionable charac-People in 1840, would all these things, could ter of the document. The explanations were profound and sweet melodies; the national life, they, have happened? But, your old Parties entirely satisfactory to the friends of Kansas, have pandered to Slavery Domination, submit- but its opponents made a party question of the Bancroft; oratory gained new triumphs in the "Henry Clay is a member of the Slaveholding ted to be governed by the Slave Power, acquimatter, and, by a strict party vote, Lane's me-Halls of Congress, and a genial race of writers

During the discussion, the Administration men denounced him bitterly, especially Mr. the occasion or theme required. Douglas; and we see it stated in the papers

only "as instructions to the first Legislature."

"My recollection now is, that three distinct propositions were submitted: first, the Consti-tution; second, the Free Banking Law sections submitted as an independent proposition; if adopted, to become a part of the Constitution itself. In the second, the Black Law question was submitted as a separate proposition, to act merely as instructions to members of the first Legislature, having in no wise any connection

The Colonel has learned by this time that such concessions hurt rather than help a good cause. Slavery will not tolerate even Hunkersm, unless it submit implicitly

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC .- A Treaty with the Dominican Republic, it is stated, has been but the French and Spanish Consuls are indig-

DUYCKINCE'S CYCLOPEDIA - WHAT THE | tions are such that every man has at least the SOUTH HAS DONE FOR OUR LITERATURE.

Perhaps no better description of this* work could be given than is contained in its suggestive and well-written preface. In its general plan, it is modelled after the admirable Cyclopedia of English Literature of the brothers Chambers, though its classification is almost strictly chronological, instead of having reference to the departments of literature to which the authors treated of in its pages have devofor instance, is placed as near as possible according to the date of his birth, and not under press the agitation of Slavery, and give peace "poets" or "prose writers." But it is our purpose to discuss the advantages or disadvantages of this arrangement. The design of the Messrs. Duyckinck

clared to be, to bring together, in one book. memorials and records of the writers of the country and their works, from the earliest period to the present day. Such an undertaking in compromise. The movement against the lates to the early literature of this country, inare so well qualified, by their extensive biblitheir judgments, and their catholicity of taste us will long remain a monument of the fidelity than of the treasures which have been added by American authors to the common literature of the world. Of course, there is great room for diversity of opinion in regard to the details of eration; defects and errors may doubtless be pointed out; but a candid examination of the whole must excite surprise, that it has been executed so well.

Following the chronological arrangement, the Cyclopedia treats of three general periods in our literature, each having its distinct charac-

The writers included in the first period are he New England Puritan school, the laborious. well-read, and acute divines, the scholars who gave life to the early seats of learning, such as Harvard, Yale, William and Mary's, and King's Colleges, the first chroniclers of American annals, several genial observers of nature, like Bartram, and an occasional quaint versifier. In this period we find rudeness, but much strength, frequently a high order of eloquence, and an ample collection of materials for his ory. The great names, illustrative of the first ra, are Roger Williams, Cotton, Hooken the Mathers, the Bartrams, Jonathan Edwards, chiefly proficient in divinity and science, and Franklin, who heralded the more general literary culture which was to follow.

The next, the Revolutionary period,

and ended with the discussion of legal and con-

stitutional principles. It is distinguished by the

labors of Otis, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Hamilton, and Jay. The political and judicial arguments which form the staple of our literature at this time were the first distinctive voices good Puritan divinity published in England as had been broached in Massachusetts and Condoubtedly furnished better poets than the land philosophy, what intimate acquaintance with but here was a new experience in Government, the politicians and public men of the country, a fresh, manly interpretation of constitutional what discriminating views of the relations of rights, expressed succinctly, forcibly, eloquentcolonial, which compelled a hearing, and elicitture, what moderation, calmness, self-control, same themes which engaged the sober arguments of our early statesmen were treated in tions, on the basis of Constitutional Liberty, a day, among whom were Francis Hopkinson, Government which has been used for nearly half Trumbull, and Freneau. This was the age of so stupendous a work! What man, who has volume, have been rescued. It was also noticeable for the increased mental activity of the

"From a strict attention to the state of mind in this country, before the year 1774 and at the present time, I am satisfied the ratio of intellect is as twenty to one, and of knowledge as one hundred to one, in these States, compared with what they were before the American Rev

The third period exhibits the results of this increased knowledge and intellectual activity. 'It gave," say the athors, "a new range to divinity and moral science, in writers like Channing, Calhoun, and Webster, illustrated the principles of political science; Marshall, Kent, and Story, interpreted law; Paulding, Irving, inces in fiction and polite literature; Hillhouse Bryant, Halleck, Dana, Longfellow, sang their at the earliest moment, found its historian in filled the various departments of letters, in turn, thoughtful, sentimental, or humorous, as

This Cyclopedia possesses another interest, sion of the main seats of learning. But Vir-Connecticut. Why is it that they are so inferior, both in the quantity and the quality of their ment, those which reflect the greatest credit upon the nation, emanate from the North? John Van Buren has remarked that "It is in a country as in the human body-the brains altainly have brains enough, as they have shown Government-we may naturally inquire if there which stands in the way of any manifestation of the highest efforts of authorship.

The Messrs. Duyckinck apparently hint at numerous colleges at the North, with "the isolated cultivation of an agricultural region,"
where letters are pursued as an ornament and
a solace, and not as a means of support, and

"But, Mr. President, I pass from this melannegotiated by Mr. Elliott, the American agent. a solace, and not as a means of support, and The British Consul takes no exception to it, where "the book-maker-the author by profession-is almost wholly unknown." But we are provoked to ask, why is the book-maker The Dominicans seem disposed to assert unknown in the agricultural region of the their rights as a sovereign people, having re- South? There are certainly plenty of authors voked the exequature of the Hamburgh Consul, and the Vice Commercial Agent of the United States Mr. Rothe and also received the North, the free white population of the Paryear, of North Carolina, voted with Mr. Campbell against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and Mr. Crimenden is understood to regard it as a measure fraught with evil to the country. intelligent, wide-awake class. Their institu-

prospect of social or political distinction before him; and, to meet the possibilities of his condition, enlightenment, and acquaintance with current literature, is in some degree a necessity. The Northern author consequently re-

Hence the fertility of the Northern press.

In the "agricultural region" of the South on the other hand, (for we speak not of the cities.) the literary man receives no stimulus to authorship from the large mass of the white population in his neighborhood. The nonslaveholders, or "poor whites," are an unreading class, degraded by the aristocratic institutions of their section, which bar their political or social advancement, and render a knowledge of books a luxury quite unnecessary, and easily dispensed with. In their hopeless condition, is folly to be wise-in the lore of books, at least. Cicero, in a glowing panegyric of ele gant letters, where he praises them as the delight of youth and the solace of old age-if we remember the passage rightly-declare that such studies rusticantur-literally, go with us into the country; or, in other words relieve the tedium of rural seclusion. Not so with the poor white rustics of the South These studies do not go to the country with them. The refined enthusiasm of the scholar and the man of science is as much beyond their comprehension as it was to the villager of Pol-

Who thought the visual line that girt him round

Consequently, the author in the "agriculti ral region" of the South must rely in the main for his readers, upon a distant community The free States must furnish them. And h must exhibit more persistency than ordinarily falls to the lot of human nature, if he continu his efforts as a book-wright, without the friendly sympathy of an intelligent neighborhood. He must therefore change either his residence of his pursuit. Hence, the few successful authors by profession, and the comparatively unimpor tant additions made to our literature, in the agricultural region of the South. The cause of this, we opine, is not, after all, so much in the agriculture, as in the kind of agriculture that is pursued there. This position could be instructively illustrated by an exhibition of the accounts of our leading publishing houses, showing from what sections they receive the principal demands for their issues.

If our remarks were not already too nother point might be advanced, derived from an examination of these noble volumes, namely, the indebtedness of our literature to the contributions of our foreign-born authors-in other words, the anti-Know Nothing character of our literature. Well do the Messrs. Duvckinck remark: "It is an honor, as it is a mos liberal advantage, to America, that men like Berkeley, Priestley, Dr. Cooper, Witherspoon Nesbit, Follen, Lieber, Schaff, Agassiz, Guyot, have freely joined their contributions to the stock of our own authors. The country has received their books, and profited by their les sons and experience. It cannot grudge the few pages which justice, no less than gratitude and affection, assigns to their story."

A vast amount of valuable matter relating to the personal as well as literary biography pedia, which, with the judicious selections from their writings, will make it a necessary book of reference to the student of our literature, and supply a varied entertainment to the merely

casual reader.

MR. CAMPRELL'S POSITION Some time since, we reprinted, from a report in the National Intelligencer, so much of a speech delivered by Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, at a Fillmore Ratification meeting in this city, as related to the question of Slavery. There was another report of his remarks, that appeared in many newspapers; but as it seemed to us to be a caricature, we did not print it. Mr. Campbell has forwarded to us a pampblet copy of the speech then delivered, with an appendix, containing his antecedents, with a re quest that we will do him justice. We have not done him injustice; and to prove this, as well as to satisfy him, we shall reprint from

this revised speech, (delivered at the meeting,)

all that relates to the Slavery Question :

"It is an interesting point to observe what ha caused this disruption of these great parties. It is due to truth and frankness to say that it was that "vexed question" of Slavery—a question which has, from the foundation of the Govern ment, given us, as a nation, very great trouble it has split into fragments the Democratic par ty, and now threatens to divide and rende powerless the American party. Yes, gentle-men, it is the "distinguished gentleman from Africa"—[laughter]—who was at an early pewhich he didn't belong,) by the cupidity of Northern as well as of Southern men—he has done this thing! It is the "colored gentle-man in the fuel," or (if I may be permitted to express it in vulgar parlance) the the wood-pile," who has given us all this trouble [Cheers and laughter.] He ought never to have been put in our fuel; and if I could have my way, I would take him out, and send him back to his native home in Africa, where he belongs. [Renewed cheering.] My opinions on this mischievous question of Slavery are well known here, and everywhere, where I am known. I always have maintained, maintain now, and expect to contend hereafter, that all the powers of the Constitution ought to be ex- upon the Governor and the appointee, and gives ercised to prevent its extension, and that the North should freely accord to the slave States, us one people, and binds us all to a common destiny. [Cheers and applause.] On this sub ject I intend hereafter, as heretofore, to think for myself, act for myself, and on proper occasions, speak for myself, as an American may do, independent of party drill and party plat-

forms. [Cheers.]
"But, sir, when this American party was first formed, Slavery was regarded as an outside issue, having no legitimate connection with the reforms which it intended to accomplish. I regret that circumstances aferwards occurred which prevented its continuing to be an outside That mischievous act which repealed the long-acquiesced-in Missouri Compromise and startled the whole country, has forced into ways lie above the belt." Without adopting the American party this disturbing element. this derogatory theory—for the Southerners cer. Yet, sir, (said Mr. Campbell, turning to Mr. Crittenden, of the Senate, and Mr. Puryear, of North Carolina, of the House, who sat immetime and again, in managing the affairs of this diately on his left,) such is my confidence in the honor and patriotism of the two distin is not something in the institutions of the South | guished gentlemen from the South on my left, that I believe we could retire to an ante-room and although it would be two to one as between North and South, fix up a platform in reference to the merits of that act, upou just and concilia the difficulty, when they say that it is not fair tory terms, in ten minutes. [Cheers.] But the to contrast the results of the large cities and trouble is, it would not stay fixed, laughter, because, unfortunately, there are extremists i both sections, who seem determined to defy the

choly theme, which it may not be proper to discuss on an occasion like this, to a brief con sideration of some of the more legitimate top ics—to the principles for which your organ zation was originally formed."

intelligent, wide-awake class. Their institu
Cyclopedia of American Literature. Embracing personal and critical notices of authors, and selections, from the earliest period to the present day. With 225 portraits, 425 autographs, and 75 views of colleges, libraries, and residences of authors, and elegant steel engravings of J. Feunimore Cooper and Benjamin Franklin. Charles Scribber publisher, New York. Sold only by subscription, \$7.

CONFISCATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY IN MEXco.-The Mexican Government has commenced the confiscation of the Church property in that country. The Church establishment consists of the Archbishop, nine bishops, 3,677 parochical clergy, 168 canons and other dignitaries. The whole ecclesiastical property is ceives encouragement to write, from a crowd of valued by some at four hundred millions of sympathizing, curious readers all about him. dollars, yielding an annual income of almost twelve millions.

"Ecclesiastical property in Mexico has hither ment of all property bequeathed to the church for pious uses—such, for instance, as raising chapels and saying masses for the souls of the donors—has always been in the hands of the clergy. It is more especially this last species of church property, estimated by Baron Humboldt some fifty years ago to be worth \$40,000,000, which it is intended at present to confiscate. The greater part of this vast property is administered by chaplains who perform no parochial duties whatever. Dr. José Mora, one of the most intelligent men in Mexico thought that Humboldt had underrated the extent of these donations, which he estimated at near eighty millions of dollars.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NATIONAL ERA The Democracy of California-Important Facts.

Ever since the result of the last State elec-

ion became known, the Democratic party of

this State has been in sore travail. The whirl-

wind of Know Nothingism, that swept over the

To the Editor of the National Era:

State, carried with it most of the Southern men who, up till that time, had acted with the Democrats. The Whigs, whether from the North or the South, having no place else to go, and willing to go anywhere to oppose the Democrats, naturally enough fell in with them. The consequence was, a sad defeat to the Democraey. The party had frequently before had evice of the treachery of the Southern wing, but it was not until now that their eyes were fully opened. The Whigs, too, discovered, when | unfortunate one, inasmuch as neither side coul oo late, that the promised reform meant nothing more than to strengthen the Pro-Slavery nterest. Many of them abandoned the Connrils, and left them entirely in the hands of the chivalry. With them it became a question whether they would organize a party, or endeavor to imbue the Democracy with the spirit, and co-operate with them. The Democrats became strongly Anti-Nebraska, denounced Pierce openly, and resolved to make the issue. A State Convention was the proper authority to take so important a step, and some of our prominent Democrats determined it should be done. If the few Union-savers who still cling to the party should bolt, the majority well knew that their places would be more than supplied by those who now stood aloof from all organizations. The Senatorial election had been defeated, and it was hoped put at rest for this session, when the Convention assembled. But such was not the fact. It was held in abeyance, to either control the action of the Convention, or punish the spirit of Freedom if it should dare to show itself in that body. There were two or three Chivalry Democrats in the senate, whose votes had defeated, and could yet bring on, a Senatorial election. These threatened to use their power for that purpose, if the State Convention refused to endorse Pierce and his Administration. Had they been allowed to do so, not one only, but two Southern Know Nothings would have been elected o the United States Senate. Thus the Northern Democrats were forced, under this threat. to abandon their high resolves, swallow Pierce, his Nebraska bill and special message, and denounce the majority in Congress for not subnitting to the minority. Such is ever the effect, when principle is made to yield to policy.

In the plenitude of their condescension, the

its delegates to vote for Buchanan, but took of debating the question, "That we do endors good care to send men who will not obey their instructions in good faith. They may vote for Buchanan a few times, having understood beforehand that their votes shall not secure his nomination. Having done this, they will then ties were chosen to open the discussion, viz vote for whoever the South may dictate. Al Thomas Taylor and Henry Brown for the afready the rival Democratic papers in San Fran-cisco are striving which shall humble itself the most to gain the favor of the propagandists. Both maintain that the delegates, though instructed, must be untrammelled. Had the Convention not met till after the adjournment of the Legislature, I feel persuaded the result the further extension of Slavery, that he signed would have been very different. But it is too the Fugitive Slave Law, &c. The former said late now to remedy the evil. Nothing can now be hoped for from the Democratic party, as Franklin, and Jay, with the founders of our such, though there are thousands belonging to the party who will never so far debase themselves as to support it in its subserviency to the Slave Power. So far as the Presidential election is concerned, there is, in fact, no difference between the Democrats and Know Nothings. The cry about Americans ruling America was but a humbug at the first, and of that we hear nothing now. The one idea of nationalizing

Slavery, absorbs every other. Seeing nothing to hope from either of the existing parties, the Republicans are taking measures to organize an independent party. But what can we now do, in so short a time? Without leaders and without presses, it seems almost in vain to make the attempt. There is no man, of any prominence as a politician, who would dare to take an open stand in favor of such an organization; and yet no man doubts speech upon the affirmative. He responded in out that a large majority of the voters of Caliornia sympathize with the Republican party. Had we but half a dozen papers, and a few ora- question-although he spoke throughout from tors to take the stump, I doubt not but the electoral vote of the State might be given for Republican candidates. Be the result what it had the right of freedom of speech upon that may, an effort will be made to organize a Re- question upon Virginia soil, although he him

GOV. CHASE AND THE GERMANS OF OHIO.

The calumnies circulated against Governor Chase by the Hunker press, especially among the Germans, begin to disappear before th just and wise administration of this noble and liberal man. We have on several occasions drawn attention to appointments which clear Mr. Chase from every suspicion of acting with the Know Nothings. another appointment, which reflects honor alike the German adopted citizens a further guaranty of the strictly just and impartial administration lection of Mr. Charles Reemelin as one of the Reform School Commissioners. This is an office of great importance. Upon the commissioners devolves the task of visiting the various nstitutions for the reform of youthful criminals, such as houses of refuge, reform schools, &c., in the several States, to decide upon the best plan for such an institution in the State of Ohio, and to invite proposals for carrying their plan into effect. Thus Mr. Reemelin will assist in founding one of the most important and bene ficial institutions in the State.

What is especially worthy of mentioning this connection is the fact, well known here-abouts, that the appointee did not vote for Governor Chase, but, on the contrary, exerted him-self to secure the re-election of Medill. This is nother proof of the conciliatory and honorable haracter of the Governor, who, instead of conferring offices as a reward for party services, estows them upon men of merit and ability.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE PHILADEL-PHIA CONVENTION - REPUBLICAN MEET-

On Wednesday, last week, a Republican neeting was held in the Madison county Court-House, in Kentucky. William Stepp, ican Association was adopted unanimously, and also a resolve to appoint delegates to the Philadelphia Convention. Cassius M. Clay was among those who addressed the meeting. He spoke at length on the position of the Whig and Democratic parties on the Slavery ques-tion and on Kansas affairs, and advocated the necessity of the Republican movement.

A Rev. Mr. Johns, a Methodist, who goes for

*Mr. Paryear, of North Carolina, voted with Mr. Campbell against the repeal of the Missousi Compromise, and Mr Crittenden is understood to regard it as a measure fraught with evil to the country.

A Rev. Mr. Johns, a Methodist, who goes for Fillmore and Donelson, intruding on the meeting, replied to Mr. Clay, and in the course of his speech boastingly eulogized the mob which drove Brady from Lexington. He was replied to by Mr. Clay and Rev. John G. Fee, in scathing speeches, which made the poor creature wither. When they had concluded, Mr. Johns jury in the murder trial of Samuel Siv. Widow

quailed, shrunk back, and whiningly disclain ed any attack on his motives. "But." said Mr. Clay, "the man's a fool who sees anything else but personality in that are who handed it to him, against the clique who backs him, against the party who indulge in such warfare, I hurl back defiance and indig

nant contempt."
The following delegates to the Philadelphia Convention were then appointed: Delegates-Rev. John G. Fee, A. E. Mc Williams, J. H. Rawlings, Harrison Burnham Substitutes—Thomas Tatum, jr., William | Wright, Frank Bland, T. J. Renfro.

THE LONDON TIMES ON GENERAL CASS

The London Times, after quoting from one of General Cass's late war speeches, "his ex hortations to brotherly love, and his own exem plification of that virtue," says:

"The only comment we make, is to ask the American public-which, on our word, we be ieve to be very like the British public-wheth er Mr. Cass is a genuine specimen of the Amer ican dove, and his speech is a true sprig from the American olive?

The article concludes as follows

"To the general question, apart from the agreeable episodes imported into it by this amicable peace-maker, we have only to call the attention of the Americans to two or three points, which they may take on our word. The British people bear no ill-will whatever to the Americans; they have no designs whatever against them, and take quite as much pleasure in hearing of the unbounded extension of the Anglo-Saxon family, language, commerce, reli gion, and laws, in the New World, as the Amer icans can possibly do themselves.

"They don't think it worth while to rake up

the histories of the American wars, and are a most to a man of opinion that the American were in the right to assert their independence and deserved all their success. They would certainly feel a war with the United States be an unnatural, discreditable, and inevitab gain honor by it, nor any advantage which peace will not bring spontaneously in time They are of opinion that two such great, popu lous, wealthy, and energetic States, could no possibly go to war without inflicting great los es upon one another; and that such is common interest in peace, that the triump and disasters of either side would be almo indifferently disasters to the other. They would much prefer that neither side should suffer as loss of honor; they are, however, bound look after themselves, and are only desirous make no greater concessions to the Unite States than they would to any great Europea State. The gentleman, whose speech we hav commented on above, says that the public press and we in particular, are faithful exponents public opinion in this country. On his own showing, then, we appeal to the American pub e to accept our assurance that we have t other wish whatever than to get out of these questions without improper and needless hu iliation; but that we certainly shall think i due to our character and position not to make greater concessions to the United States than we should to any other Power in the world."

For the National Era. FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN VIRGINIA

In the county of Loudoun, Virginia, there has existed, since 1851, a society, having for its object, as the preamble to its Constitution declares, "a free exchange of sentiment, the spreading of truth and mutual improvement"and for its title, the " Goose Creek Literary So ciety." On the 15th of March last, a regular adjourned meeting of this Society was held at chivalry permitted the Convention to instruct the Goose Creek School House, for the purpose the nomination of Millard Fillmore by the

American Party." At a previous meeting, the following parfirmative, and Francis H. Ray and Jesse H. Brown for the negative. In their replies, F H. Ray and J. H. Brown argued Frat the could not endorse the nomination upon the Government and the framers of our Constitu-tion, he was opposed to the extension of Hu man Bondage over territory once consecrate forever to Freedom. The latter expressed similar sentiments; and concluded by adding the hope that the fertile plains of Kansas and Ne braska might never, in the truthful language of the Senator from Alabama, (Mr. Clay.)

hibit the painful signs of senility and decay apparent in Virginia and the Carolinas." Neither of these speakers argued upon the abolition of Slavery; but both said that they would not disturb the institution where it already exists, but would leave it to die out o

After the chosen speakers had concluded, and after several brief speeches from others, lengthy and irrelevant speech, and regretted that the discussion had turned upon the Slavery If devoted an hour and a half to its discus sion. Hereupop, the meeting became muc excited, and loud cries of "He has the right he shall have the freedom of speech!" came from all parts of the room. At this point, M. Ray told him that if he or any other gentle man would come to New York, he would be allowed entire freedom of speech upon any and every question, and be treated with a reed, that "he (Ray) might have entire fre of speech on Virginia soil, if he would speak right." Mr. Trayhern then expressed the hope that Slavery might go into Kansas; that the South might never cease in its present efforts. intil it should be firmly established there. declared that, rather than see the Missour Compromise restored, (strongly as he was o posed to its repeal,) he would see the Unio issolved. This sentiment gave rise to sor hissing, and much excitement, and received a reply from Jesse Hoge. He said that he had heard long and loud denunciations of Northern fanaticism, but never of any that would com-pare with that, and that that was Southern fanaticism of the rankest kind. He was ed by H. Brown, Thomas Taylor, and other Americans,) all of whom declared that the

o the meeting. Now for the sequel.

During the speech of James F. Trayher he was prompted repeatedly by Josiah B. Tay lor—who sat at his elbow—editor of the Dem cratic Mirror, of Leesburg, Va., an organ Henry A. Wise and his party. Soon after, the Mirror appeared with an article under the tile of "Black Republican Meeting in Loudoun." Next followed the Sentinel and the Washing tonian, of Leesburg, and the Virginia Scalin of Alexandria, with articles denouncing thou who conducted the negative of the above-me tioned discussion as "Abolitionists," "fanalics," "violators of law," "disturbers of public

laid down by their would be colleague, James F. Trayhern. Thus much for the facts relating

peace," and other epithets expressive of the surprise and indignation.

The law which declares it to be criminal to deny the right of masters to property in slaves was printed, for the edification and enlighten ment of Mr. Ray, and he was advised, through

Violence.

Indignation meetings have been held in ferent parts of the county, and resolutions similar to the following, which we find in the